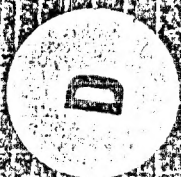


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# Espionage 101:

## THE CIA AND THE CAMPUS CONNECTION

Consider a professor at a major American university. He knows his students well, he writes scholarly literature for publication, he is an acknowledged expert in his field. During his semesters off, he might travel abroad, perhaps to study the subject of his expertise firsthand. He appears to be like others in his profession, the educators of tomorrow's leaders, scholars who are respected by society and emulated by their students.

But suppose this one is different. Suppose the literature he writes is propaganda, manufactured first-person accounts of conditions in communist countries. Suppose in class he watches his students carefully, deciding who among them would be a likely candidate for his organization. Before he even approaches them, he runs a check on their backgrounds, including groups belonged to, arrest records, political affiliations. When he travels abroad, he gathers intelligence from unwitting sources and studies the political climate in other countries. His role as an academic is merely a cover. He works for the CIA.

That figure is not a character from a cold war novel. He—or she—could be married or single, even a student. But

he, they, hundreds of paid CIA informants exist in universities across the nation and the world. Academics are common instruments, routine instruments, of the Central Intelligence Agency. The uses that have been mentioned are among the many revealed by last year's Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, headed by Senator Frank Church. But in the midst of more sensational, headline-grabbing stories, such as unwitting LSD trips, bungled assassinations, etc., the CIA's campus connections were all but ignored by the press. Unlike those other horror stories, these activities continue unabated. The CIA is, and has been for years, as tightly connected as ivy to the academic walls.

The exact nature of these activities are difficult to guess. On the surface, the majority of them would probably seem harmless, in no way affecting the integrity of an academic institution. Like other governmental agencies, the CIA regularly contracts individuals and institutions to do specific jobs for them. Often it is historical research, economic or political analysis; sometimes merely library research.

The Church Committee, however, makes sinister, though vague,

references to the agency's use of academics to gather intelligence covertly, recruit secretly and write propaganda for distribution in foreign countries. Sometimes these operatives are not even aware they work for the CIA. In most cases, nobody at the university but the individual involved is aware of the CIA connection. Even harmless research is kept secret because of the stigma attached to working for the CIA. And when a professor travels abroad, he or she may use his or her academic status and privileges for what is really an intelligence-gathering operation.

When the Church Committee began its probe into these activities, its access to current information was severely limited. The committee was welcome only to information from before 1967. This was not very surprising. In 1967, the agency was also wracked by scandals unearthed by another investigative committee. It was because of that investigation and the subsequent public furor that the CIA was compelled to change its tactics to prevent public disclosure of its questionable domestic activities. And judging from the lack of specifics in the Church report, those tactics worked.

**By MARK FRITZ**

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